



Through advocacy, partnership and direct service, our mission is to abolish all forms of human trafficking and free victims from the grip of slavery.

Central Valley Freedom Coalition Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2015

Ride For a Reason

BY DANI VILLALOBOS



Director Michael Fagans and Bishop David Rice at the September 12th screening.

Excerpts from Clovis Independent article published on 8/20/15 Human Trafficking Awareness Month may technically fall in January — but as far as the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin is concerned, now is the perfect time to bring local attention to the complex and pervasive issue.

From Oct. 2 to Oct. 23, its Tour Against Trafficking encourages community cycling-enthusiasts to pedal 750 miles across the Valley in an outward effort to raise awareness about human trafficking, as well as financial support for local groups and organizations working to bring an end to this crime.

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, David Rice, is taking an active stance on addressing human trafficking within the 26 parishes and missions of his diocese, personally inviting anyone and everyone to ride alongside him on the 18-leg journey from Taft to Modesto.

But the Clovis resident and avid cyclist wants to make it very clear: Tour Against Trafficking is much more than the average marathon.

“Our task is to raise awareness of difficulties people face, and in this case, the crimes that are committed and have to be addressed.”

In the following months came the process of exploring various avenues to make a difference through the church, favoring the idea of a bicycle tour that would act as “a moveable symbol of people working together to address a major problem both locally and beyond.”

Before the tour gets underway, however, the diocese has already begun to make strides in educating our region on the issue of human trafficking through a series of public screenings of “The Trafficked Life” and panel discussions with area professionals.

Holy Family Episcopal Church hosted “Human Trafficking Awareness to Action Summit” on May 30 at the Park Inn in Fresno, intentionally selecting a venue outside the church that would encourage people of all walks of life to feel welcome and included.

Fresno EOC’s Central Valley Against Human Trafficking program manager, Melissa Gomez, was on the panel for the May event, and is co-hosting a double showing and dialogue of “The Trafficked Life” with Centro La Familia on Sept. 12 at the Sanctuary Theater.

Fresno EOC’s Central Valley Against Human Trafficking is one of the six groups sponsored by the tour at this time, and views this approach as a unique way to spread awareness.

“When you look at human trafficking, it can be heavy and you need to bring life to the issue,” Gomez said. “We are very thankful to be a recipient of the sponsorship, and think it’s a great way the community can get involved and give.”

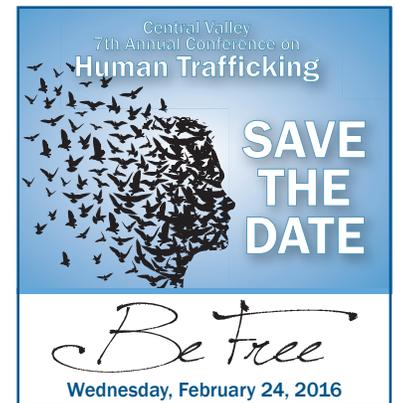
By Dani Villalobos

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For full story, please visit <http://www.fresnoee.com/news/local/community/clovis-news/article31665911.html>

Visit: <http://touragainstrafficking.org/> to join the ride!

Upcoming Events



7th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking

The theme of this year’s conference is “Be Free;” exploring a multi-disciplinary approach to regional partnerships, identification and recovery for victims.

Registration opens December 1st

Check for updates

Visit: www.fresnoeoc.org/cvaht/conference

Immigration Forum



Location: CSUF Peters Education Center

November 12th, 6:30 p.m.

Visit: Fresnoeoc.org/fifty for more information

More upcoming events: Page 2

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Sanctuary and Youth Services

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking

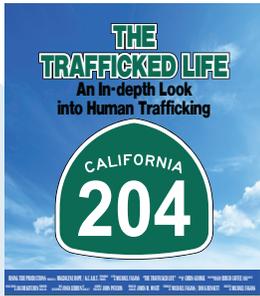
Upcoming Events

Cont...



Human Trafficking Awareness Month is January!

Email your events to cvaht@fresnoeoc.org for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



SAVE THE DATE

The Trafficked Life
Full Feature Premier

Location: Fox Theatre
2001 H. Street, Bakersfield, CA
January 7, 2016 – 6 p.m.
Visit: Traffickedlife.org for more info



Freedom Sunday is an internationally recognized day for the faith community to focus on worship, prayer and action in response to human trafficking (and other forms of slavery).

February 7, 2016
Visit: cvjusticecoalition.org for more information

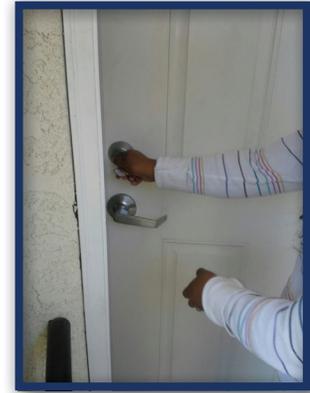


Keys To a New Future

In addition to ongoing trauma, foreign national victims of human trafficking often face multiple barriers to recovery, such as language, obtaining safe and affordable housing, limited income, reliable transportation, and unfamiliarity with new surroundings. The challenges they encounter often makes the dream of starting over seem impossible. This past summer Central Valley Against Human Trafficking and our partners celebrated! For one family the dream became a reality as they were able to secure permanent housing thanks to assistance from Cesar Chavez Foundation! As keys were handed over to their very first apartment, it marked a new chapter in a journey towards self-sufficiency and healing. Thank you Cesar Chavez Foundation for providing a family with the opportunity to take a first step into a new future!

The mission of Cesar Chavez Foundation is to enrich and improve the lives of farm worker and Latino families outside the work place by meeting their essential human, cultural, and community needs. The foundation helps workers and their families overcome serious dilemmas they confront outside the workplace by providing affordable housing, educational Spanish-language radio and educational services.

“The Cesar Chavez Foundation provides a variety of services to families and individuals in need. In particular, we provide the essential resource of housing to thousands of individuals. It is our belief that in order to truly impact the lives of individuals, we must meet their human, cultural and community needs first. Our housing program is an essential part of achieving that goal.”



Since the 1960s, the service center expanded to meet the changing needs of working families and Latino communities, and excelled as a community leader throughout the five-state area it serves: Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington. It also provides services, leadership and training to other communities across the country. Chavez's family and friends established Cesar Chavez Foundation following his passing in 1993, to educate people about him and continue his work. In early 2011, the National Farm Workers Service Center merged with Cesar Chavez Foundation to include all the operations under one umbrella and offer a comprehensive approach to managing the dual elements of his legacy: inspiring people by sharing Chavez's life and values as well as improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of poor people.

For more information visit www.chavezfoundation.org/housing or email hed@chavezfoundation.org.

Please direct victims or advocates to the National Helpline
1-888-373-7888 or Text “HELP”

In The Spotlight

Agency: Central Valley Justice Coalition
Jessica Pittman and Kelly Mitchinson



The Story Behind the Pink Packs:

What is a Pink Pack? “A Pink Pack is a backpack full of essential emergency supplies such as hygiene items, a blanket, a water bottle, and undergarments.”

What is the vision behind Pink Packs? “Several years ago community agencies shared a very practical need for emergency supplies. That’s when we took on the project as an opportunity to connect the faith community to this issue. Now local churches can hold a “Pink Pack Drive” and provide us with the completed packs for distribution. Things that seem small to us are huge to a person when they

have had so much stripped away. These backpacks are a sign of hope (to that person), and we are honored to extend it and believe that hope will grow.”

Who can be the recipient of a Pink Pack? “Victims of trafficking and their children can be recipients. Originally the Pink Packs were made for women, but we have expanded the project to create specialized packs for all genders and ages. We provide Pink Packs to any agency that serves victims of human trafficking for distribution. Our staff have been personally impacted through the stories our partnering agencies share. One of our favorite was of a child victim who received a Hello Kitty blanket. Her face lit up when she received it. The personalized touch brought her a moment of joy and made all the difference.”



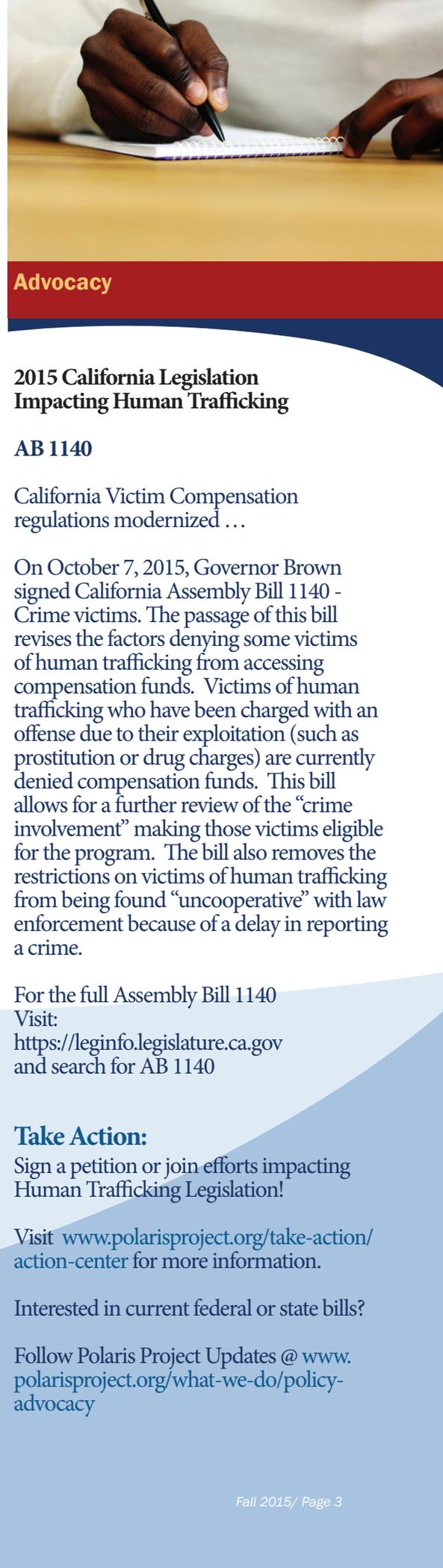
How have local churches and community members been involved in creating and distributing Pink

Packs? “Churches put the word out to their congregations with a list we provide of necessary items. Some choose to gather a group for a day to fill the packs with the supplies that have been donated. It can be a fun activity for individuals of all ages. The church communities have been grateful for the opportunity to provide these backpacks. We hope that they offer tangible evidence that people care.”

How many Pink Packs have been provided to victims and survivors of trafficking? “In 2015, 25 packs have been distributed. Our intention is to continue providing them as requests are made. We would love to see more lives touched through this ministry.”

Central Valley Justice Coalition is a faith-based coalition made up of churches, organizations, and passionate individuals who are responding to God’s heart for justice to prevent human trafficking in California’s Central Valley.

Their Mission is to partner with the church and community to prevent human trafficking. For more information or to get involved with the project visit cvjusticecoalition.com.



Advocacy

2015 California Legislation Impacting Human Trafficking

AB 1140

California Victim Compensation regulations modernized ...

On October 7, 2015, Governor Brown signed California Assembly Bill 1140 - Crime victims. The passage of this bill revises the factors denying some victims of human trafficking from accessing compensation funds. Victims of human trafficking who have been charged with an offense due to their exploitation (such as prostitution or drug charges) are currently denied compensation funds. This bill allows for a further review of the “crime involvement” making those victims eligible for the program. The bill also removes the restrictions on victims of human trafficking from being found “uncooperative” with law enforcement because of a delay in reporting a crime.

For the full Assembly Bill 1140 Visit:
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> and search for AB 1140

Take Action:

Sign a petition or join efforts impacting Human Trafficking Legislation!

Visit www.polarisproject.org/take-action/action-center for more information.

Interested in current federal or state bills?

Follow Polaris Project Updates @ www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy

National Human Trafficking Resource Center:
“HELP” to BEFREE (233733)

Our Story

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking and the Central Valley Freedom Coalition were both founded in 2009, as a direct response to a need recognized by Fresno EOC's Sanctuary Youth Shelter staff. The program and coalition began to serve all victims of trafficking, regardless of age or gender, and provides advocacy, outreach, training and public awareness to a six-county region including Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced and Tulare.

 **Like us on Facebook**
facebook.com/cvfreedomcoalition

We stand together to help all youth in need



Sanctuary Youth Shelter is a designated Safe Place for youth. There are 270 Safe Place sites in Fresno including all Fresno Unified Schools, city buses, plus select local businesses and faith based organizations. Safe Place is a national youth outreach program that gives youth resources to help

them resolve difficult or threatening situations. To find the nearest Safe Place location text: "Safe" with your current location (address/city/st) to 69866

Call 1-800-820-4968 (YOU)



About Central Valley Freedom Coalition

Central Valley Freedom Coalition (CVFC), is a regional coalition of federal and local law enforcement, service providers, victim advocates, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens dedicated to working together to address the critical issue of human

trafficking in the Central Valley of California. It is coordinated by Fresno EOC and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, a recognized Rescue and Restore Coalition.

How to Get Involved

- Partner with us in the work
- Follow us on Facebook
- Subscribe to our email list
- Participate in quarterly coalition meetings and local events
- Volunteer to support the cause
- Donate funding to support survivors

To DONATE
Scan: QR Code
Text:

FresnoEOC
to 41444 then choose program:
Sanctuary Youth Services

Online:
www.FresnoEOC.org/sanctuary



 **Like us on Facebook**
Facebook.com/cvfreedomcoalition

 **Follow us on Twitter**
Twitter.com/EOC_Sanctuary

Help Free Victims of Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, widespread throughout the United States and world today. Through force, fraud or coercion victims are exploited to provide labor or commercial sexual services, at a huge profit to the traffickers. Victims of trafficking can be of any age, gender, ethnic or economic background. Victims can be found in many different industries including: pornography, stripping, prostitution, massage parlours, domestic servitude, sweatshops, construction, agriculture or landscaping, nail salons, hotels, panhandling, and janitorial services.

Please direct victims or advocates to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:

1-888-373-7888 or Text "HELP" to BEFREE (233733)

 Fresno **Economic Opportunities Commission**
Sanctuary and Youth Services

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking

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